October 2007, US Health Secretary Michael O.Leavitt in January 2008, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates in February 2008, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi in March 2008, Congressional Delegation led by Gary Ackerman in July 2008 and US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice in October 2008. The delegations interacted with relevant Indian institutions and met with their Indian counterparts including officials of the Government of India and high dignitaries such as Members of the Indian Parliament, Members of the Union cabinet and other political leaders. These delegations pursued a wide ranging agenda covering the entire spectrum of the India-US bilateral cooperation and strategic relationship including the India-US civilian nuclear initiative and cooperation in the areas of defence, counter terrorism, space, energy, science and technology, health, education, agriculture, high technology, trade and commerce and on regional and global issues of common concern.

Refusal to provide uranium

†701.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India getting waiver from nuclear trade in NSG a few countries have refused to provide uranium to India;

(b) if so, the details of such countries and reasons for their refusal of uranium to India;

(c) whether Government is holding any talks with Governments of these countries; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Australian Government has publicly stated that it has a long standing policy to not supply uranium to countries which have not signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). India is not a signatory to the NPT.

Statement of Pakistan's President

†702.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan has said that Pakistan has no danger from India;

(b) whether India can also say that it has no danger from Pakistan;

(c) the number of persons involved in bomb blasts over the years who are living in Pakistan; and

(d) whether Pakistan has been asked not to give them shelter and repatriate them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) India is committed to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India has nevertheless continuing and serious concerns. In this regard, Government have reiterated the importance of fulfilment of commitments contained in the Joint Statements of 6th January 2004 and 24th September 2008 that Pakistan would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Details of absconders and wanted in connection with terrorist activities and believed to be in Pakistan have been shared with the Government of Pakistan from time to time and repatriation to India sought.

Wearing of turban in French institutions

703. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, during the recent visit of the French President, Government took up the issue of wearing turban in French institutions which is violation of human rights affecting Indians especially the Sikh community;

(b) whether Government, in the national interest, would take the issue with French authorities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. During Prime Minister's recent visit to France on September 29-30, 2008, the issue of wearing turbans in some French institutions was taken up. The issue was also taken up during the visit of French President to India in January 2008.

(c) Does not arise.

Electricity through nuclear power

704. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether quantum of electricity generated through nuclear power in India is far low as compared to other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the share of electricity generated through nuclear power as compared to the other developing countries;

(d) whether electricity generated through nuclear is cheaper than that of thermal and hydro power;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the efforts being made by Government to increase generation of electricity through nuclear power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The (net) quantum of electricity generated from nuclear power and nuclear share in the total electricity generation in some of the developing countries during the calendar year 2007 are as under:

Country	Nuclear electricity generation in 2007	
	Net Generation (Million Units)	Share (%)
China	62,600	1.9
India	15,913	2.5
Brazil	12,366	2.8
Mexico	10,421	4.6
Argentina	6,721	6.2
Pakistan	2,310	2.3

Source: PRIS, IAEA. The above figures are net, excluding auxiliary consumption.